

Good
Friday

TENEBRAE
SERVICE

MARCH 29, 2024
7:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

TENEBRAE
A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

Practiced since medieval times, the service of Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows” or “darkness”) is a solemn observance through scripture, music, and increasing darkness of Jesus’ passion and death.

Please gather in silence.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We follow Christ,
 who lived among us as Emmanuel, God with us.
We follow Christ,
 who shares our pain and sorrow.
We follow Christ,
 who suffered and died for love of the world.
We follow Christ,
 our redeemer and friend.

PRAYER (*Unison*)

Loving God,
you sent Jesus Christ to save us.
And yet, we deny, betray, and abandon him.
Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us.
Help us in this somber hour to stand as faithful disciples,
keeping watch with him in his darkest hour.
In the name of Christ, our only hope, we pray. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #218**

Ah, Holy Jesus

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced my side with a spear, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed upon you the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

A brief silence is kept.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

On this solemn evening, come Holy Spirit.
Pour out your wisdom and understanding
that our hearts and minds may be open
to the depth of your suffering and love.
In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Luke 23:26-27, 32-34

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Extinguishing of a candle follows each reading.

SEVEN CHORAL MEDITATIONS ON THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST Music by Dale Wood

O COME AND MOURN WITH ME AWHILE

Text by Frederick William Faber, D.D. (1814-1863)

O come and mourn with me awhile; O come ye to the Savior's side;
O come, together let us mourn: Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.
Have we no tears to shed for him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
How patiently he hangs: Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.
Seven times he spoke, seven words of love;
and all three hours his silence cried for mercy on the souls of men:
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.
O love of God, O sin of man! In this dread act your strength is tried;
and victory remains with love; for he, our Love, is crucified!

Silence.

SECOND READING

Luke 23:35-43

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? As we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

HEAR US, HOLY JESUS

Text by Thomas Benson Pollock (1836-1896)

Jesus, pitying the sighs of the thief, who near thee dies,
promising him paradise: hear us, holy Jesus.
May we in our guilt and shame still thy love and mercy claim,
calling humbly on thy name: hear us, holy Jesus.
May our hearts to thee incline, looking from our cross to thine;
cheer our souls with hope divine: hear us, holy Jesus.

*Silence.***THIRD READING**

John 19:25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

AT THE CROSS, HER STATION KEEPING

Text by Jacapone da Todi (1230-1306); tr. by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

At the cross, her station keeping, stood the mournful mother weeping,
where he hung, the dying Lord;
for her soul, of joy bereaved, bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
felt the sharp and piercing sword.
O how sad and sore distressed now was she, that mother blessed,
of the sole-begotten One.
Deep the woe of her affliction, when she saw the crucifixion
of her ever-glorious Son.
Jesus, may her deep devotion stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind,
that my heart, fresh ardor gaining and a purer love attaining,
may with thee acceptance find.

Silence.

FOURTH READING

Mark 15:33-34

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

BOUND UPON THE ACCURSED TREE

Text by Dean Milman (1791-1868)

Bound upon the accursed tree, faint and bleeding, who is he?
By the eyes so pale and dim, streaming blood and writhing limb?
By the flesh with scourges torn, by the crown of twisted thorn,
by the side so deeply pierced, by the baffled, burning thirst?
Bound upon the accursed tree, dread and awful, who is he?
By the sun at noonday pale, shivering rocks and rending veil?
Lo! Beneath the blackened sky, hear his last and bitter cry.
Crucified, we know thee now: Son of God! 'tis thou! 'tis thou!

Silence.

FIFTH READING

John 19:28-29

When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

JESUS, IN THY THIRST AND PAIN

Text by Thomas Benson Pollock

Jesus, in thy thirst and pain, while thy wounds thy life blood drain;
thirsting more our love to gain.

Thirst for us in mercy still, all thy holy work fulfill;
satisfy thy loving will.

May we thirst thy love to know, lead us in our sin and woe,
lead us where the healing waters flow.

Silence.

SIXTH READING

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

O PERFECT LIFE OF LOVE

Text by Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

O perfect life of love, all is finished now;
all that he left his throne above to do for us below!

All is finished now.

No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
all forms of human grief and care have pierced that tender heart.

All is finished now.

In perfect love he dies for me!

O all-atoning sacrifice, I cling by faith to thee.

Silence.

SEVENTH READING

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

Text by Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Behold the Lamb of God, bowed down in bitter pain;
to God his dying prayer ascends.
In death, my Lord and Savior, may I cry with thee:
“My Father, I commend my spirit into thy loving hands.”
I die in thee.

Silence.

Let us depart in solitude and silence as we seek communion with Christ.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries

FPC Chancel Choir

Dr. Shohei Kobayashi, Guest Conductor

Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter

Easter Sunday, March 31

6:30 am Sunrise Service at
Menucha Retreat & Conference Center

10:30 am Easter Worship Service at FPC
Easter Egg Hunt after worship



The Crucifixion

By Fra Angelico, c. 1420–23

*Love God.
Love Our Neighbors.*

Vision Statement

We commit to be a church that is:

Engaged: A forward-thinking and involved congregation committed to each other and to the wider community.

Inclusive: A faith community that affirms and welcomes all people.

Compassionate: A congregation that follows in Christ's way, advancing the well-being and dignity of all people, working for a just and equitable society, and caring for all creation.

Faithful: Living our faith authentically with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love while expanding the circle where God's love is known.

PRINCIPAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor

Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Associate Pastor

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Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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